

MURPHY PLYWOOD

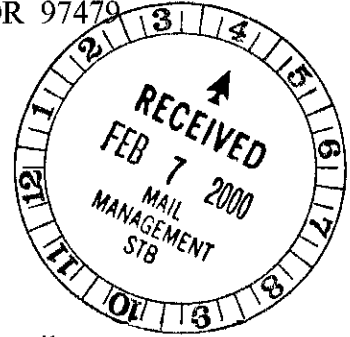
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Murphy Plywood
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Secretary
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001
(refer to Finance Docket No. 33842)



To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to oppose the BNSF/CN merger. My company uses rail transportation, including but not limited to UP, CN, and BNSF. I support the STB's decision in the BNSF/CN docket to examine carefully the BNSF/CN proposed control application, including all of the effects it could have on the rail transportation industry. The Board should not look at the BNSF/CN transaction in a vacuum. It should consider the effects that further mergers and consolidations in the rail industry will have on shippers.

My company has experienced the effects of the service disruptions caused by rail mergers over the past five years, including the merger of Burlington Northern and Santa Fe. Shippers in the U.S. and Canada are still feeling the effects of the most recent changes in the East. While improvements in service are taking place, this has been a long, expensive and resource consuming process for my company. The railroads do not need further disruptions in providing service right now. Merger Implementation is obviously a multi-year process that consumes attention and resources of the merging railroads' management. My company has worked through the disruption to rail service that has followed these mergers. The shipper community deserves and has earned a period of stability in the rail industry while the railroads concentrate on completing the integrations and delivering all the benefits we expected from the prior mergers that the STB has approved.

Any major consolidation, like BNSF/CN, will necessarily lead to more mergers and consolidations. While there might be a time when additional mergers become appropriate, another round of merger activity is likely to divert all of the railroads' attention, resources and energy away from the more important job of improving their service in the current industry structure. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


John Murphy